AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1.   (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An image output method comprising the steps of:

obtaining initial image data representing an initial image recorded in an original image and ID information for identifying an original picture by reading the original image having the original picture and the ID information inseparable from the original picture;

reading equivalent original picture data representing an equivalent original picture corresponding to the ID information from storage means storing a plurality of sets of original picture data having ID information related thereto;

comparing the initial image data with the equivalent original picture data and obtaining processed image data <u>for output</u> by carrying out processing on the equivalent original picture data to cause the equivalent original picture to geometrically agree with the original picture in the initial image; and

obtaining a print by printing the processed image data,

<u>wherein the processed image data geometrically agree with the original picture in the initial image</u>.

2.   (ORIGINAL) An image output method as defined in claim 1, wherein the ID information is secretly embedded in the initial image.

3.   (ORIGINAL) An image output method as defined in claim 1, further comprising the step of carrying out copying prevention processing on the processed image data and/or on the print.

4.   (ORIGINAL) An image output method as defined in claim 2, further comprising the step of carrying out copying prevention processing on the processed image data and/or on the print.

5.   (ORIGINAL) An image output method as defined in any one of claims 1 to 4, further comprising the step of managing a copyright of the original picture based on the ID information.

6.   (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An image output apparatus comprising:

reading means for obtaining initial image data representing an initial image recorded in an original image and ID information for identifying an original picture by reading the original image having the original picture and the ID information inseparable from the original picture;

storage means for storing a plurality of sets of original picture data in relation to ID information;

reading means for reading equivalent original picture data representing an equivalent original picture corresponding to the ID information of the original picture from the storage means;

processing means for obtaining processed image data <u>for output</u> by comparing the initial image data with the equivalent original picture data and carrying out processing on the equivalent original picture data to cause the equivalent original picture to geometrically agree with the original picture in the initial image; and

output means for obtaining a print by printing the processed image data,

<u>wherein the processed image data geometrically agree with the original picture in the initial image</u>.

7.   (ORIGINAL) An image output apparatus as defined in claim 6, wherein the ID information is secretly embedded in the initial image.

8.   (ORIGINAL) An image output apparatus as defined in claim 6, further comprising copying prevention processing means for carrying out processing to prevent copying on the processed image data and/or on the print.

9.   (ORIGINAL) An image output apparatus as defined in claim 7, further comprising copying prevention processing means for carrying out processing to prevent copying on the processed image data and/or on the print.

10.   (ORIGINAL) An image output apparatus as defined in any one of claims 6 to 9, further comprising information management means for managing a copyright of the original picture based on the ID information.

11.   (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A computer-readable recording medium storing a program to cause a computer to execute the procedures of:

obtaining initial image data representing an initial image recorded in an original image and ID information for identifying an original picture by reading the original image having the original picture and the ID information inseparable from the original picture;

reading equivalent original picture data representing an equivalent original picture corresponding to the ID information from storage means storing a plurality of sets of original picture data having ID information related thereto;

comparing the initial image data with the equivalent original picture data and obtaining processed image data <u>for output</u> by carrying out processing on

the equivalent original picture data to cause the equivalent original picture to geometrically agree with the original picture in the initial image; and

obtaining a print by printing the processed image data,

wherein the processed image data geometrically agree with the original picture in the initial image.

12.   (ORIGINAL) A computer-readable recording medium as defined in claim 11, wherein the ID information is secretly embedded in the initial image.

13.   (ORIGINAL) A computer-readable recording medium as defined in claim 11, the program further comprising the procedure of carrying out copying prevention processing on the processed image data and/or on the print.

14.   (ORIGINAL) A computer-readable recording medium as defined in claim 12, the program further comprising the procedure of carrying out copying prevention processing on the processed image data and/or on the print.

15.   (ORIGINAL) A computer-readable recording medium as defined in any one of claims 11 to 14, the program further comprising the procedure of managing a copyright of the original picture based on the ID information.

16.   (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method to output image, comprising:

receiving a composition input data, wherein the composition input data includes an input image data, wherein the input image data includes at least a portion of an original picture data with ID information corresponding o the original picture data embedded therein;

extracting the ID information from the input image data;

retrieving from storage an original image data corresponding to the ID information, wherein the original image data includes the original picture data with the related ID information embedded therein;

composing an output image data <u>for output</u> such that the input image data of the composition input data is replaced with a matching portion of the original image data,

<u>wherein the output image data geometrically match with the original picture data in the input image data.</u>

17.   (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 16, wherein the step of composing includes:

extracting the matching portion of the original image data corresponding to the input image data; and

replacing the input image data of the composition input data with the matching portion of the original image data.

18.   (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 17, wherein the step of extracting the matching portion includes:

pattern matching the original image data with the input image data.

19.   (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 18, wherein the step of pattern matching includes one or more of scaling, rotating, cropping and translating.

20.   (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 16, wherein the ID information is embedded in the original image data and the input image data in one or more subplanes, wherein a dimension of the original image data m x n pixels, and wherein:

each subplane is composed of p x q pixels, $p < m$ and $q < n$, and

the subplanes are spaced apart a predetermined number of pixels from each other.

21.   (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 20, wherein a bit value of the ID information is encoded in the subplanes.

22. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 21, wherein the ID information is modulated on color channels of the original picture data.

23. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 22, wherein the ID information is modulated onto lower bits of the color channels.

24. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 22, wherein the color channels are R, G, and B.

25. (NEW) The image output method as defined in claim 1, wherein the step of obtaining the processed image data for output includes:

extracting a portion of the initial image data that does not correspond to the original picture data; and

composing the processed image data for output such that the portion of the initial image data that does not correspond to the original picture data is in the processed image data.

26. (NEW) The image output apparatus as defined in claim 6, wherein the processing means is configured to extract a portion of the input image data that does not correspond to the original picture data, and configured to compose the output image data for output such that the portion of the input

image data that does not correspond to the original picture data is in the output image data.

27.   (NEW) The computer-readable medium as defined in claim 11, wherein the step of obtaining the processed image data for output in the stored program includes:

extracting a portion of the input image data that does not correspond to the original picture data; and

composing the output image data for output such that the portion of the input image data that does not correspond to the original picture data is in the output image data.

28.   (NEW) The method of claim 16, wherein the step of composing includes:

extracting a portion of the input image data that does not correspond to the original picture data; and

composing the output image data for output such that the portion of the input image data that does not correspond to the original picture data is in the output image data.